

Remuneration Board

12 June 2015

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru
National
Assembly for
Wales



Request for Information.

Thank you for your request received 27 May in which you asked:

- 1. What does each individual on the Remuneration Board at the Assembly earn on said board business per annum?*
- 2. How many hours does each individual work on remuneration board business per annum?*
- 3. What are the associated costs for running the board to include: Office, expenses, postage etc.?*
- 4. What is the total annual cost of employing the remuneration board at the Assembly?*
- 5. Who do the board report to?*
- 6. Who is responsible for their terms of reference?*
- 7. Can Assembly Members turn down this years "pay award"?*
- 8. If there is a reason why they cannot turn the pay award down what is that reason(s)?*

The National Assembly for Wales Remuneration Board (the "Board") is a distinct and separate body from the National Assembly for Wales. For the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "Act"), the information which you have requested is held by the National Assembly on behalf of the Board. Strictly speaking, the National Assembly does not hold that information, but the Board has provided the following response which I am passing to you on the Board's behalf. Each question has been answered separately below.

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg/We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

1. What does each individual on the remuneration board at the Assembly earn on said board business per annum?

The Board publishes an annual report which details the individual remuneration of each board Member. Previously reports are available below:

[2010-11](#)

[2011-12](#)

[2012-13](#)

[2013-14](#)

The Annual Report for 2014-15 is yet to be approved by the Assembly. Once approved, the report will be published on our website (scheduled for July) - <http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=11701>

For your information, Section 11 of the National Assembly for Wales (Remuneration) Measure 2010 states that:

'The Board must, as soon as possible after the end of each financial year, lay before the Assembly an annual report on its activities, including its use of resources, during that financial year.'

As there is planned publication of the information you require within the next few weeks, we do not intend to provide the information at this stage as you will be able to view the information when it is published. The reasons that we will not be providing the information at this stage are governed section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For further information see the [Annex](#).

2. How many hours does each individual work on remuneration board business per annum?

Please see our response to question 1 above.

3. What are the associated costs for running the board to include: Office, expenses, postage etc.?

The Board's costs – including remuneration and the expenses of Board members is published in the annual report. The Board's report on the Review of the Determination for the Fifth Assembly also covers the additional costs incurred in its work, for example by commissioning additional research.

The Board's secretariat is provided by Assembly Commission staff. It is not possible to disaggregate the costs of this, as staff working for the Board also perform other duties within the Assembly. Staff do not record the time they

spend on supporting the Board, and therefore, this information is not held and cannot be provided.

4. What is the total annual cost of employing the remuneration board at the Assembly?

Please see our response to question 1.

5. Who do the board report to?

The Board is independent. Its Members are appointed by the Commission, and the current recruitment programme has been led by the Clerk and Chief Executive of the National Assembly for Wales.

6. Who is responsible for their terms of reference?

As mentioned above, the Board is independent and the Board's remit is set out in the [Measure](#).

7. Can Assembly Members turn down this years "pay award"?

The remuneration for 2015-16, set out by the Board, is decided by the Board, and will now be enacted.

However, any employee may choose to make a salary sacrifice. Indeed, some Members of the National Assembly already choose not to take their full salary at present.

8. If there is a reason why they cannot turn the pay award down what is that reason(s)?

The Board was established so that decisions over the remuneration of Assembly Members would be taken out of their hands.

However, as set out above, some individual Assembly Members have previously chosen, and currently choose, not to take their full salary.

Your request has been considered according to the principles set out in the Code of Practice on Public Access to Information. The code is published on our website at http://www.assemblywales.org/abthome/about_us-commission_assembly_administration/abt-foi/abt-foi-cop-pub.htm

If you have any questions regarding this response please contact me. If you feel you have cause for complaint, please follow the guidance at the end of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Buddug Saer
Freedom of Information and Project Support Officer
National Assembly for Wales

Cause for concern or complaint with your FOI response?

If you believe that I have not applied the Code correctly or have not followed the relevant laws, you may make a formal complaint to the Chief Executive and Clerk at the National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay. Details of the Assembly's complaints principles are set out in the Code of Practice on Complaints available on the Internet at <http://www.assembly.wales/en/help/contact-the-assembly/con-complaint/Pages/con-complaint-procedure.aspx>. Please advise me if you wish to receive a printed copy.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Annex

Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that:

(1) Information is exempt information if:

- (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not);
- b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and
- (c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and as such the public interest test needs to be considered.

The National Assembly for Wales (Remuneration) Measure 2010 requires that the Remuneration Board publishes such information as is necessary to enable the public to be aware of its activities. It does so by publishing an annual report as well as agendas and minutes of meetings.

The Board's practice is to publish the information you seek as part of its annual report and this is expected to occur in July.

We cannot see any circumstances that suggest that there is a public interest in earlier disclosure of the information, in this particular case, other than in accordance with these arrangements. Accordingly, we are of the view that the public interest in adhering to the arrangements set out above is not outweighed by any public interest in earlier disclosure.